

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LAGOS 03571 181508Z

64

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 AID-05 SIL-01 LAB-04 CIAE-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 OFA-01

DLOS-05 /039 W

----- 075242

R 180828Z APT 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8874

INFO USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS LAGOS 3571

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, EWWT, NI

SUBJ: LAGOS/APAPA PORT CONGESTION

REF: STATE 69954

1. AS OF APRIL 14, OFFICIAL DELAY PERIODS FOR SHIPS WAITING TO BERTH AT NIGERIAN PORTS WERE AS FOLLOWS: AAPAPA IMPORT --- 85-90 DAYS; APAPA EXPORT --- 2-5 DAYS; LAGOS CUSTOMS QUAY 25-30 DAYS; APAPA LIGHTER -- 15-20 DAYS; PORT HARCOURT (GENERAL CARGO) -- 38-40 DAYS; PORT HARCOURT (CEMENT) -- 25-8 DAYS; WARRI -- 3-6 DAYS.

2. THERE IS SOME EVIDENCE THAT HIGHEST LEVES OF NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT, SPURRED IN PART BY PUBLIC OUTCRY, ARE FOCUSSING INCREASED ATTENTION ON PROBLEM OF PORT CONGESTION. ON APRIL 4, HEADOF STATE PAID SURPRISE VISIT TO APAPA PORT, URGED PORT WORKERS TO BE MORE PRODUCTIVE, AND HINTED THAT HE WOULD NOT HESTITATE TO APPLY MILITARY TECHNIQUES TO THAT END, IF MORAL SUASION NOT EFFECTIVE. A FEW DAYS LATER, FMG ANNOUNCED SERIES OF EMERGENCY MEASURES, INCLUDING (A) ESTABLISHMENT OF ACTION COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF COMMISSIONERS OF TRANSPORT, WORKS AND HOUSING, FINANCE, AND TRADE; AND (B) STREAMLINED CUSTOMS PROCEDURES AIMED AT CLEARING CARGO FROM PORT WAREHOUSES AS

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LAGOS 03571 181508Z

QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

3. COMMENT: THE TWO MAJOR BOTTLENECKS IN LAGOS /APAPA PORT ARE: TIME REQUIRED TO OFFLOAD CARGO FROM VESSELS; AND TIME REQUIRED TO CLEAR CARGO FROM WAREHOUSE SO THAT NEW CARGO CAN TAKE ITS PLACE. THOUGH THE FIRST BOTTLE-NECK IS PERHAPS MOST SERIOUS, SECOND OCCASIONALLY COMES INTO PLAY, AND STREAMLINED CUSTOMS PROCEDURES COULD GO LONG WAY IN RELIEVING PROBLEM OF FULL WAREHOUSES. PROBLEM OF OFFLOADING TIME IS TOUGHER NUT TO CRACK AND MAY REQUIRED IMAGINATIVE SOLUTION SUCH AS USE OF LANDING CRAFT OR HEAVY-LIFT HELICOPTERS.

4. TO ANSWER REFTEL, THERE ARE NO BULK CEMENT STORAGE FACILITIES WITHIN LAGOS/APAPA PORT. IN FACT, NORMAL PROCEDURE IS THAT IMPORTERS OF CEMENT BRING TRUCKS ALONGSIDE VESSELS, CLEAR CUSTOMS ON SPOT, AND EVACUTE IMMEDIATELY TO THEIR OWN WAREHOUSES. ON UPSHOT OF THIS PROCEDURE IS THAT WHEN PORT WAREHOUSES ARE FULL, AND CAN ACCEPT NO MORE GENERAL CARGO, VESSELS CARRYING CEMENT ARE OFTEN BROUGHT TO FRONT OF LINE AND OFFLOADED SO AS TO PREVENT STEVEDORING CAPACITY TO SIT IDLE. NET EFFECT IS THAT CEMENT GENERALLY (NOT ALWAYS) CLEARS PORT FASTER THAN GENER
F.#IN ADDITION, OF COURSE, CERTAIN SHIPMENTS-- E.G. THOSE DESTINED FOR BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL CONSTRUCTION -- ARE ENTITLED TO PRIORITY BERTHING REGARDLESS OF SITUATION IN WAREHOUSES.
CROSBY

NOTE BY OCT: #AS RECEIVED.

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CARGO SHIPS, DATA, PORT CONGESTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LAGOS03571
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750137-0393
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750498/aaaahopy.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 69954
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 MAR 2003 by AveretAM>; APPROVED <02 FEB 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> sph 971124
Subject: LAGOS/APAPA PORT CONGESTION
TAGS: BEXP, EWWT, NI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006